



101 Main St.
PO Box 306
West Branch, IA 52358
info@silt.org • silt.org
319.800.8018

Suzan Erem
Executive Director

FARM Specialist Job Posting

Stuart Valentine
President,
Fairfield

SILT was founded in December 2014 to permanently protect Iowa land to grow healthy food. We do this by soliciting donations of land and agricultural conservation easements and matching them with sustainable food farmers. Annual Revenue: Currently less than \$100,000

Denise O'Brien
Vice-President,
Atlantic

Position: FARM Specialist (Full Time)

Kathy Dice
Treasurer, Wapello

Reporting to the Executive Director, the Farm and Realty Management Specialist's primary role will be landowner outreach and relations. S/he will come to the job with basic sustainable food production knowledge and then receive additional and continuous training on specialty crops, managed grazing, NRCS technology and permanent land protection. This position is focused in Eastern Iowa.

Cindy Reed
Secretary, Solon

Paul Durrenberger
West Branch

Responsibilities

Lora Fraracci
Des Moines

Landowner Outreach: (30%)

- Develop and implement creative ways to reach landowners interested in conservation-minded food production.
- Work closely with government, nonprofit and individual allies to market consultation services.
- Work with SILT's marketing professional to develop the most effective messages for digital and traditional media and print materials.
- Table at conferences that interested landowners are likely to attend.

Jeff Jensen
Fenton

Kayla Koether
Decorah

Lyle Luzum
Decorah

Gina McAndrews
Ames

Landowner Education: (30%)

- Discuss options by phone and email and walk property with landowners.
- Describe conservation values using NRCS tools, measure potential for sustainable food production – specialty crops, meat and poultry – and educate landowners on options for permanent protection of their land.
- Leave behind print materials for landowners to read at their own convenience.
- Update silt.org to provide landowner-friendly information.

George Oamek
Honey Creek

David Swenson
Ames

Landowner Relations: (25%)

- Stay in touch with landowners with regular emails, phone calls or texts.
- Answer questions and refer landowners to particular resources they may need.

- Work with landowners to meet their permanent protection goals based on their own circumstances.
- Follow through from first contact to closings on easements and land donations.

Tracking and Reporting (15%)

- Employ Landscape software to track all landowner contact and transactions from first contact through closing.
- Complete conservation plans and periodic reports per NRCS requirements.
- Provide quarterly report to Executive Director for SILT Board of Directors and be available at board meetings to answer questions.

Qualifications:

The FARM specialist will be thoroughly committed to SILT's mission. All candidates should have proven initiative and a track record of reliability. Experience and other qualifications should include:

- A degree or commensurate experience in sustainable agriculture.
- At least one year of food farming or related advocacy on behalf of food farmers.
- A strong sense of what "sustainable" means and how to achieve it.
- Is self-directed: has an ability to organize daily and weekly work to meet goals and objectives.
- Strong written and verbal skills, an ability (and passion) for talking to people about the land, the environment, food farming and the capacity to leave a legacy.
- Can easily learn database management and other technology necessary to perform the job.
- Pays attention to detail, inputting information accurately into technology to get accurate results.
- This job requires driving (primarily Eastern Iowa), walking many kinds of terrain and working flexible hours.

The long-term success and fulfillment of the person in this position will depend on the passion they have for the work. SILT is a young organization with limited resources. We work as a team to reach our goals. The wages we can offer under this NRCS grant are best suited to recent graduates or those seeking an encore career. It is a Full Time position with a 5-year commitment, work incentives and longevity bonuses built in. Health and pension benefits not available at this time.

Deadline for Applications: August 17, 2018

Anticipated Start Date: Sept. 1, 2018

Confidential Application Process: Email (Word or PDF document) cover letter summarizing why you are the best candidate, qualifications and compensation requirements along with a current resume to the attention of Suzan Erem, SILT Executive Director, to: suzan@silt.org. Inquiries may be sent to the same e-mail address. Applications received by the deadline will be acknowledged with an email reply.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

SILT is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against persons on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, marital status, age, disability, or veteran status.